IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 17-19, 27, 28, and 46 as follows:

17. (Amended Once) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for a Max Sessions Server (MSS) of a data communications network keeping a count of the sessions used at a given time by a group of users to correct said count to compensate for abnormal disconnection of users belonging to said group, said method comprising:

assigning unique identification values(UIVs) to each user logged in at a port of a network access server (NAS);

maintaining a master list of UIVs associated with logged in users and their respective group identification information;

responding to a new user's attempt to log in to the data communications network by checking to see if the UIV of the new user is already in the master list, and if it is, clearing the entry in the master list and entering the new user's UIV and group identification information in the master list.

18. (Amended Once) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for a Resource Control Server (RCS) of a data communications network keeping a count of a particular resource used at a given time by a group of users to correct said count to compensate for abnormal disconnections of users belonging to said group, said method comprising:

assigning unique identification values (UIVs) to each user logged in at a port of a network access server (NAS);

maintaining a master list of UIVs associated with logged in users and their respective group identification information;

responding to a new user's attempt to log in to the data communications network by checking to see if the UIV of the new user is already in the master list, and if it is, clearing the entry in the master list and entering the new user's UIV and group identification information in the master list.

19. (Amended Once) A method for a Max Sessions Server (MSS) of a data communications network keeping a count of the sessions used at a given time by a group of users to correct said count to compensate for abnormal disconnections of users belonging to said group, said method comprising:

assigning unique identification values (UIVs) to each user logged in at a port of a network access server (NAS);

maintaining a master list of UIVs associated with logged in users and their respective group identification information;

periodically checking a NAS to determine if it has become non-operational; and

responding to the non-operational status of a NAS by removing all UIVs associated with the non-operational NAS from said master list and decrementing the count of the sessions used by the number of UIVs removed from said master list.

27. (Amended Once) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for a Max Sessions Server (MSS) of a data communications network keeping a count of the sessions used

at a given time by a group of users to correct said count to compensate for abnormal disconnections of users belonging to said group, said method comprising:

assigning unique identifications values (UIVs) to each used logged in at a port of a network access server (NAS);

maintaining a master list of UIVs associated with logged in users and their respective group identification information;

periodically checking a NAS to determine if it has become non-operational;

responding to the non-operational status of a NAS by removing all UIVs associated with the non-operational NAS from said master list and decrementing the count of the sessions used by the number of UIVs removed from said master list.

28. (Amended Once) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instruction executable by the machine to perform a method for a Resource Control Server (RCS) of a data communications network keeping a count of a particular resource used at a given time by a group of users to correct said count to compensate for abnormal disconnections of users belong to said group, said method comprising:

assigning unique identifications values (UIVs) to each used logged in at a port of a network access server (NAS);

maintaining a master list of UIVs associated with logged in users and their respective group identification information;

periodically checking a NAS to determine if it has become non-operational;

responding to the non-operational status of a NAS by removing all UIVs associated with the non-operational NAS from said master list and decrementing the count of the particular resource used by the number of UIVs removed from said master list.

46. (Amended Once) A method for a Max Sessions Server (MSS) to detect hardware or communication failures at a Network Assess Server (NAS) or at a particular port on said NAS, said method comprising:

maintaining a master list of unique identification numbers associated with each logged in user;

responding to a user's attempt to log into the data communications network by checking to see if the unique identification number associated with the user is already on the master list;

removing the unique identification number from the master list if said unique identification number already appears on the master list;

decrementing corresponding MSS counter(s) by one if said unique identification number is already on the master list;

receiving notification from an associated Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server when said NAS fails a communications check performed by the AAA server;

removing all said unique identification numbers associated with said NAS from the master list if said NAS fails said communications check; and

decrementing the MSS counters by the total number of lost connections on said NAS if said NAS fails said communications check.